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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

ELLIS et al.

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T. D.

For: SERVICE PROVISION SUPPORT SYSTEM

* * * * *

October 26, 2000

04/22674

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 4, line 1, delete "2 or 3".

Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10, line 1 of each, delete "any preceding" and after "claim"

✓ insert -- 1 --.

Claim 11, line 1, delete "any of claims 1 to 10" and insert -- claim 1 --.

Claims 16 and 17, line 1 of each, delete "or 15".

Claim 18, line 1, delete "any of claims 14 to 17" and insert -- claim 14 --.

Claim 19, line 1, delete "any preceding" and after "claim" insert -- 1 --.

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